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Timber Transit Rules

* 873Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints of harassment of the public by the Forest officials under Timber Transit Rules in Pudukkottai since merger; and

(b) whether the Government contemplate evolving any procedure for easy and cheap *bona fide* movement of fuel cart-loads into the town of Pudukkottai from its rural areas?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) No, Sir.
" (b) Does not arise."

Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli

* 874 Q.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of beds available in the Government Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, in the general ward and special wards;

(b) the number of applicants for the beds in the special wards during the year 1953–54;

(c) the number of persons who were allotted beds in the special wards;

(d) the number of persons who could not be provided with beds for want of accommodation;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the bed-strength in the special wards; and

(f) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Two hundred and thiry-seven in the general wards and 38 in the special wards.

" ((a) Figures are not available.

" (b) 601.

" (d) All deserving patients are given admission in the general wards. Paying patients are admitted to special wards.

" (e) There is no proposal at present.

" (f) Does not arise."

Felling timber in Malabar

* 875 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether timber trade in the West Coast has been adversely affected and a large number of workers have been thrown out of employment due to the non-issue of permits by the Collector of Malabar for felling timber;

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(b) the reasons for the action of the Collector; and

(c) whether the Collector has taken any steps to remedy these bad effects?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) to (c) Representations were recently made to the Government by certain associations and individuals in Malabar alleging that the Collector had refused permission under section 3 (2) of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act wholesale to the timber operators in that district under the 'selection felling method' and that the timber economy of North Malabar had consequently been affected by such orders. The Government have considered these representations and instructed the Collector of Malabar to dispose of the applications in accordance with the rules in the matter, as they stand at present."

* 876 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any report from the Collector, Malabar, or complaints from the concerned parties on the refusal of the Collector, Malabar, to issue licence to certain timber merchants to cut down trees from the forests under the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act;

(b) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter;

(c) the grounds under which the application for permits to cut down selected woods was rejected;

(d) whether the Government have any report on the enforced unemployment caused consequent on the rejection of licences to timber merchants; and

(e) if so, whether the same will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) to (e) Representations were made to the Government by the Malabar Timber Producers' Association and certain other bodies and individuals in Malabar alleging that the Collector of Malabar had refused permission under section 3 (2) of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act wholesale to the timber operators in that district under the 'selection felling method' on the following grounds :—

(1) Most of the trees were comparatively young,

(2) the girth of the majority of the trees was below 10 feet and most of the trees were to grow to that size, and

(3) most of the trees in respect of which permission to cut was applied for were of immature species. It was also represented to the Government that the timber economy